BLUE BEETLE
12¢
JUNE
BLUE BEETLE
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
the GIANT MUMMY who was not DEAD!

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

CHAPTER 1

BLUE BEETLE AND THE GIANT MUMMY WHO WAS NOT DEAD

THIS WAS THE FORBIDDEN TOMB...THE ANCIENT HIEROGLYPHICS DECIPHERED BY DR. DAN GARRETT AND HIS BEAUTIFUL EGYPTIAN ASSOCIATE, PROFESSOR LURI HOSHID, PROMISED HORRIBLE DEATH TO ANY TRESPASSER INTO THIS ROOM, THE PLACE WHERE THE EVIL PHARAOH HAD BEEN INTERRED! NOW...THE VERY EARTH SHOOK BENEATH THE AMERICAN ARCHEOLOGIST'S FEET...A FIERY WHITE LIGHT FLASHED THROUGH THE THICK STONE WALLS! LURI HOSHID SCREAMED AND SOUGHT REFUGE IN DAN'S ARMS! THEY HAD BOTH SEEN THE TERRIBLE SIGHT...THE MUMMIFIED BODY OF KHA-EF-RE, THE EVIL PHARAOH OF THE OLD KINGDOM, DEAD SINCE APPROXIMATELY 2550 B.C., WAS GROWING BEFORE THEIR EYES! THEY SAW THE HEAT WAVES RIPPLE OVER THE MUMMY, THEY SAW THE GREAT CREATURE STIR AND THEN, UNMISTAKABLY, IT WAS ERECT AND TURNED TOWARD THEM! WAS THIS THE PROPHECY COME TRUE... WERE THEY TO DIE NOW AT THE HANDS OF THE GIANT MUMMY WHO WAS NOT DEAD?

DAN, DAN, IT WILL DESTROY US BOTH! I WARNED YOU AGAINST OPENING THIS CRYPT!
DON'T DESPAIR, LURI! THIS BLUE SCARAB... THE BEETLE...HAS POWER AND IT WILL TRIUMPH OVER ALL EVIL!

BLUE BEETLE

IN NEW YORK, THE DIRECTORS OF THE MUSEUM HAD CONFERRED WITH DR DANIEL GARRETT, LEADING ARCHEOLOGIST AND AUTHORITY ON ANCIENT EGYPT/

DR GARRETT, WE THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO LEAD THE EXPEDI- T ON TO INVESTIGATE THE PRESENCE OF PREDYNASTIC TREASURES AT EL ALIL/

NORMALLY, I SHOULD BE...BUT YOU PROBABLY HAVE NOT BEEN KEPT IN- FORMED CONCERNING THE NUCLEAR DE- VICES WHICH WERE ALREADY EXPLODED IN THIS AREA GENERAL AMENTOHEP S NOT AMENABLE TO REASON...AND I THINK IT WOULD BE FOOLHARDY TO PROCEED WITH RESEARCH N THAT AREA AT THIS TIME

THE CHALCOLITHIC OR PREDYNASTIC TREASURES HAVE BEEN THERE FOR 6000 YEARS...A FEW MORE YEARS WON'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE/

AT HIS ABODE THAT EVENING, DR GARRETT WAS STUDYING HIS NOTES ON KING RAMESES II WHOSE TWO HUGE SPEOS DEDICATED TO RE-HARAKHT AND HATHOR OVERLOOK THE NILE ..HIS IDEA OF A RELAXING EVENING AT HOME/

WHO CAN THAT BE?

DONG!

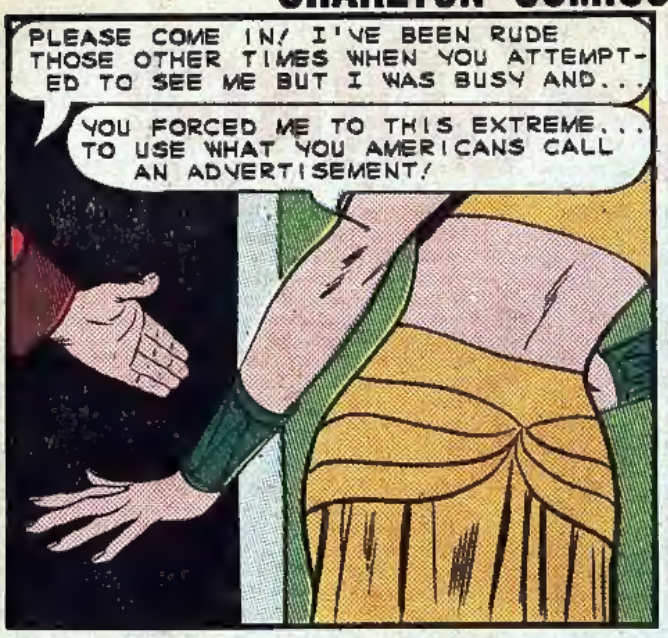
DR DANIEL GARRETT? I AM PROFESSOR LURI HOSHID/ MAY I ENTER?

WELL ..ER I'D RATHER YOU

WITH A SINUOUS MOVEMENT, LUR HOSHID SHED HER CLOAK AND

YOU ARE GARBED AS A DANCER IN THE COURT OF ABYDOS, 1305 B.C./ IS THERE ANY SIGNIFICANCE..?

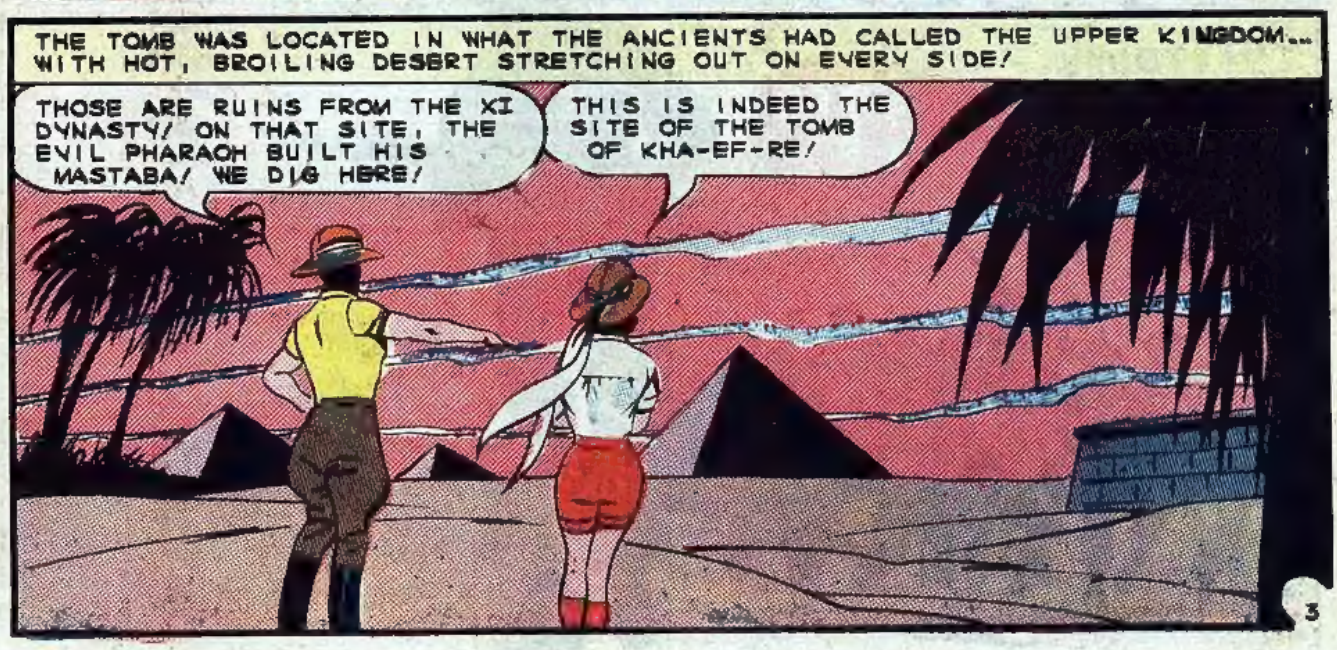
IF I MAY, I SHALL EX- PLAIN/

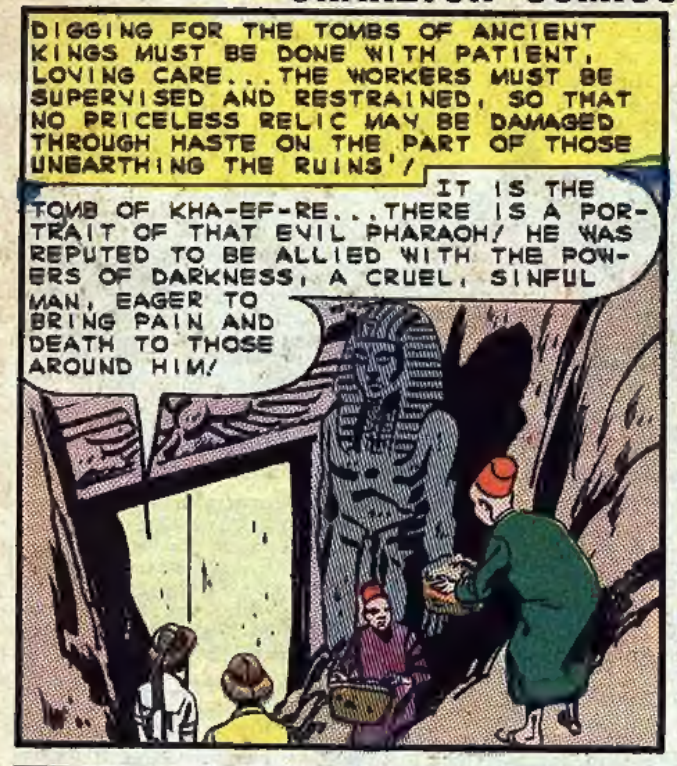

PLEASE COME IN! I'VE BEEN RUDE THOSE OTHER TIMES WHEN YOU ATTEMPTED TO SEE ME BUT I WAS BUSY AND...
YOU FORCED ME TO THIS EXTREME... TO USE WHAT YOU AMERICANS CALL AN ADVERTISEMENT!

WHERE YOUR MUSEUM WISHES YOU TO DIG IS LOCATED THE MASTABA OF KHA-EF-RE, THE EVIL PHARAOH! I HAVE DECIPHERED THE HIEROGLYPHIC WRITINGS FOUND THERE AND I MUST WARN YOU!
I HADN'T REALLY PLANNED ON LEADING THIS EXPEDITION...

...UNTIL NOW! PROFESSOR HOSHID, IT IS THE MUSEUM'S PRACTICE TO EMPLOY AN EGYPTIAN CONTEMPORARY! WILL YOU ASSIST ME IN OUR INVESTIGATIONS?
OH, DR. GARRETT...

I SHALL BE FOREVER IN YOUR DEBT!

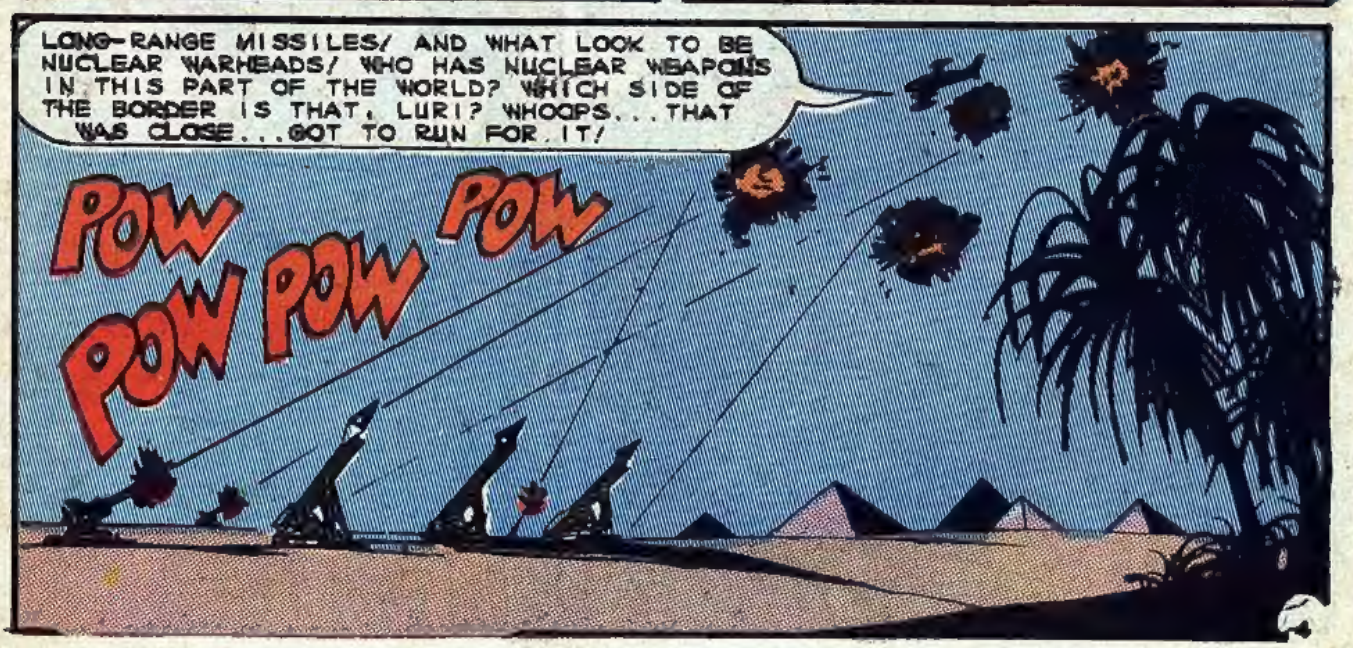

THE TOMB WAS LOCATED IN WHAT THE ANCIENTS HAD CALLED THE UPPER KINGDOM... WITH HOT, BROILING DESERT STRETCHING OUT ON EVERY SIDE!
THOSE ARE RUINS FROM THE XI DYNASTY! ON THAT SITE, THE EVIL PHARAOH BUILT HIS MASTABA! WE DIG HERE!
THIS IS INDEED THE SITE OF THE TOMB OF KHA-EF-RE!


DIGGING FOR THE TOMBS OF ANCIENT KINGS MUST BE DONE WITH PATIENT, LOVING CARE...THE WORKERS MUST BE SUPERVISED AND RESTRAINED, SO THAT NO PRICELESS RELIC MAY BE DAMAGED THROUGH HASTE ON THE PART OF THOSE UNEARTHING THE RUINS'/
IT IS THE TOMB OF KHA-EF-RE...THERE IS A PORTRAIT OF THAT EVIL PHARAOH/ HE WAS REPUTED TO BE ALLIED WITH THE POWERS OF DARKNESS, A CRUEL, SINFUL MAN, EAGER TO BRING PAIN AND DEATH TO THOSE AROUND HIM/

YOU ARE SUPERSTITIOUS, PROFESSOR HOSHID/ YOU NEED A CHANGE...WILL YOU DINE IN CAIRO WITH ME TONIGHT?
YES, DR. GARRETT...BUT I WILL NOT HAVE DINNER WITH A MAN WHO CALLS ME "PROFESSOR" ALL EVENING/ CAN YOU NOT SAY LURI...TRY IT..

VERY WELL, LURI... AND WE'LL HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME/
OH, DAN...IT IS SO VERY DEPRESSING HERE/

LATER, DAN, AN ACCOMPLISHED PILOT, LIFTED THE AIRCRAFT EXPEDITION'S FROM THE MAKESHIFT RUNWAY/
YOU LOOK LOVELY, LURI/ IN LESS THAN THIRTY MINUTES WE WILL BE IN THE MOST EXPENSIVE RESTAURANT IN CAIRO/
DAN, LOOK DOWN THERE/


LONG-RANGE MISSILES/ AND WHAT LOOK TO BE NUCLEAR WARHEADS/ WHO HAS NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD? WHICH SIDE OF THE BORDER IS THAT, LURI? WHOOPS...THAT WAS CLOSE...GOT TO RUN FOR IT/
POW
POW POW
POW

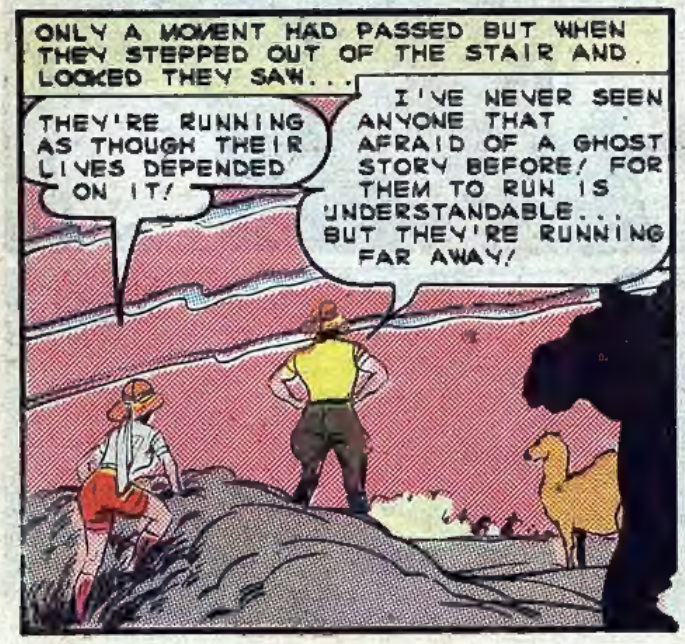
I'M GOING TO GO BACK AND...
NO, NO, THEY'LL KILL US BOTH! I WAS AFRAID THEY WOULD BE HERE!
THEY? YOU HAVE AN IDEA WHO THAT IS DOWN THERE?
YOU KNOW TOO, DAN! GENERAL AMENHOTEP, DESCENDANT OF A MIGHTY RULER OF EGYPT, IS IN COMMAND THERE! IT IS NOT ANY COUNTRY'S LAND...IT IS DISPUTED TERRITORY AND WITHOUT VALUE!
AND HE IS USING IT...FROM THIS UNWANTED WASTELAND, HE DREAMS OF CONQUERING THE WORLD! HE IS MAD AND WE SHALL BE DEAD IF WE ATTEMPT TO DEAL WITH HIM AT THAT PLACE!
IN CAIRO, AT THE SURIYAN OASIS, A RESTAURANT FAMOUS AMONG GOURMETS IN ALL LANDS, LURI AND DAN PREPARED TO ENJOY A FEAST...
DAN, LOOK! IT IS GENERAL AMENHOTEP!
IDIOT! IF I RULED HERE, I WOULD HAVE YOU CRUSHED BY HEAVY STONES! BEGONE AND DO NOT ATTEMPT TO SERVE ME AGAIN!
DAN, PLEASE, DON'T GET HIM MAD!
HE'S RUINING OUR DINNER WITH HIS BAD MANNERS! AND I WANT TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT HIS MACHINE-GUNNERS TOO! EXCUSE ME, LURI...

YOU ARE AMENHOTEP? YOU HAVE A CAMP NEAR THE OASIS OF EL BHAZIR?
REMOVE YOUR REVOLTING, ALIEN PRESENCE, FOREIGNER! YOU OFFEND ME!
SHALL WE DISABLE HIM, GREAT ONE?
HOLD HIM A MOMENT, MAFTI!
GENERAL AMENHOTEP STEPPED CLOSE, A SMALL SMILE ON HIS SENSUOUSLY CRUEL MOUTH! HE LIFTED HIS ARM TO STRIKE DR. DAN GARRETT...AND DAN GARRETT SUDDENLY EXPLODED!
HOLD HIM, HE IS...
POLICE! GENERAL ASSAULTED!
HURRY, DAN! THE GENERAL HAS GREAT INFLUENCE WITH THE AUTHORITIES HERE!
A THOUSAND ONJAS TO THE OFFICER WHO...
CEASE FIRE! WE HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO FIRE UPON THOSE PEOPLE!
BAM BAM
BAM BAM

AND IN THE MORNING BACK TO WORK AT THE MASTABA OF KHA-EF-RE!
OH, DAN...THIS TOMB HAS AN EVIL SMELL! I HAVE WORKED IN OTHER EXCAVATIONS BUT NEVER HAS MY FLESH CRAWLED WITH FEAR AS IT DOES NOW!
VERY INTERESTING, LURI...

...BUT WE ARE SCIENTISTS! THE CURSES OF THE ANCIENT PHARAOHS HAVE NO REAL POWER...AND YET WE WHO SHOULD KNOW BETTER ARE AS FRIGHTENED AS THE MOST IGNORANT WORKMAN! COME, LET US SMOKE OUT THE SPIRITS OF KHA-EF-RE!

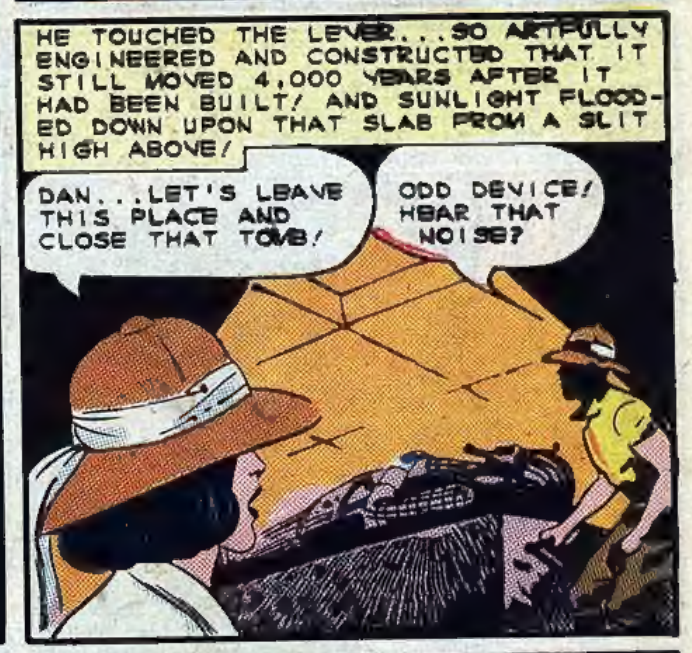
DID YOU NOTICE IT, DAN? JUST BEFORE WE STARTED DOWN THESE STEPS, ALL THE WORKMEN DROPPED WHAT THEY WERE AT...AND WATCHED US?
SOMETHING DID SEEM ODD NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT!


ONLY A MOMENT HAD PASSED BUT WHEN THEY STEPPED OUT OF THE STAIR AND LOOKED THEY SAW...
THEY'RE RUNNING AS THOUGH THEIR LIVES DEPENDED ON IT!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE THAT AFRAID OF A GHOST STORY BEFORE! FOR THEM TO RUN IS UNDERSTANDABLE... BUT THEY'RE RUNNING FAR AWAY!

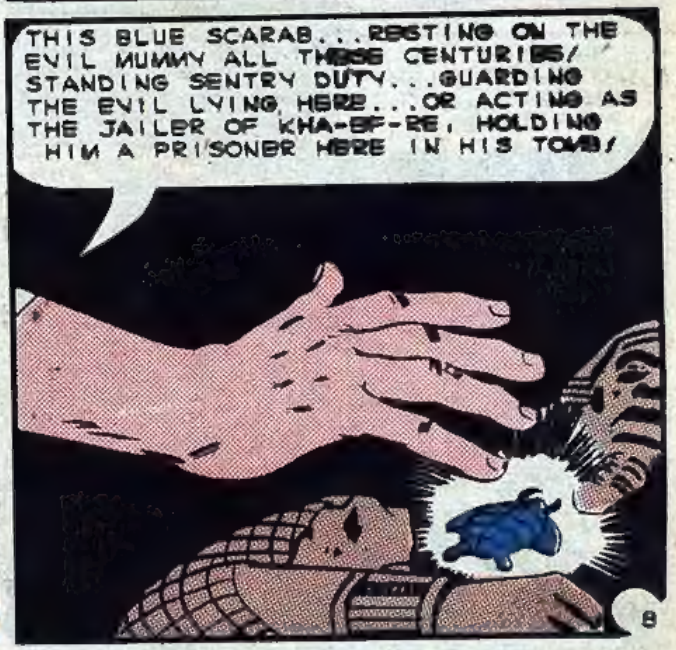
EVEN THE PAINTINGS ON THE WALL ARE EVIL! OH, LOOK...THERE IS A SACRIFICIAL ALTER!

DAN, HE...HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN A GIANT!
NO, OF COURSE NOT! THIS KHA-EF-RE HELD CEREMONIES HERE... HE SPOKE FROM BEHIND THIS STATUE AND HIS PEOPLE BELIEVED HIM TO BE GREATER AND MORE EVIL THAN EVER!

HERE IS THE ACTUAL MUMMY OF KHA-EF-RE! SEE...IT IS ON THE SACRIFICIAL ALTAR! LOOK AT THAT BEAUTIFUL SCARAB...CARVED IN PRECIOUS STONE! HMMM...WHAT'S THIS LEVER?


HE TOUCHED THE LEVER...SO ARTFULLY ENGINEERED AND CONSTRUCTED THAT IT STILL MOVED 4,000 YEARS AFTER IT HAD BEEN BUILT! AND SUNLIGHT FLOODED DOWN UPON THAT SLAB FROM A SLIT HIGH ABOVE!
DAN...LET'S LEAVE THIS PLACE AND CLOSE THAT TOMB!
ODD DEVICE! HEAR THAT NOISE?

DAN, THIS INSCRIPTION SAYS THAT KHA-EF-RE WILL LIVE WHEN THE WHITE-HOT LIGHT TOUCHED HIM AGAIN!
WHITE-HOT? THE SUN? OR AN ATOMIC BLAST! LURI!


THIS BLUE SCARAB...RESTING ON THE EVIL MUMMY ALL THESE CENTURIES! STANDING SENTRY DUTY...GUARDING THE EVIL LYING HERE...OR ACTING AS THE JAILER OF KHA-EF-RE, HOLDING HIM A PRISONER HERE IN HIS TOMB!

THE INSTANT THE BLAZING BLUE BEETLE TOUCHED DR. DAN GARRETT, HE FELT THE CHANGE/ HE SENSED THE POWER OF THE JEWELED SCARAB, FELT THE LIMITLESS STRENGTH IN HIMSELF...WHEN HE HELD THAT STONE/

I FEEL IT/ THE POWER-INCREDIBLE POWER AND IT IS MINE TO USE/ I HEAR VOICES WHISPERING DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES/

HE DREAMED A DREAM...STANDING THERE WITH THE ANCIENT, GLOWING SCARAB, DR. DAN GARRETT WAS SUDDENLY TRANSFORMED BACK IN TIME...TOTHE MOST MAGNIFICENT OF THE GREAT AND GOOD PHARAOHS/

BEHOLD ME, MAN OF THE 20TH CENTURY/ YOU HAVE DISCOVERED THE GREAT POWER OF THE SACRED SCARAB/ THE SACRED BLUE BEETLE IS YOURS SO LONG AS YOU USE THE POWER WISELY/

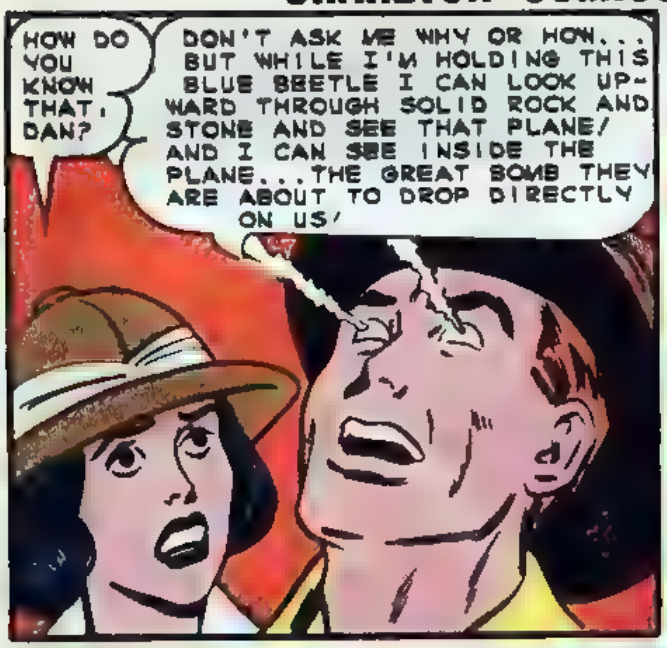
YOU WILL DO BATTLE WITH THE FORCES OF EVIL/ WITH THE MAD, BAD PHARAOH, KHA-EF-RE ...WITH HIS CONSPIRATOR, A MAN OF YOUR TIME/ SEEK THEM WITHOUT FEAR, SMITE THEM, YOU ARE THE CHAMPION OF ALL MANKIND/

BEWARE OF THE WHITE-HOT LIGHT FOR THIS IS THE BEGINNING/

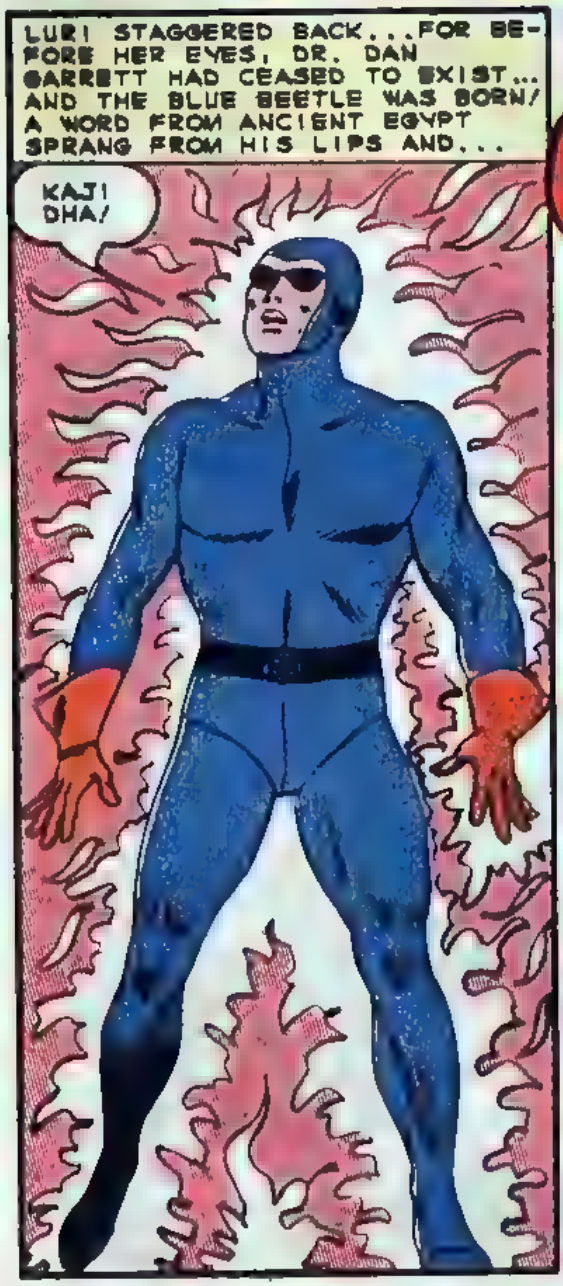
THEN...THE DREAM WAS ENDED...AND DR. DAN GARRETT HEARD A SOUND OF - HIS OWN CENTURY/ THE SOUND OF A JET BOMBER...CLOSE OVERHEAD/

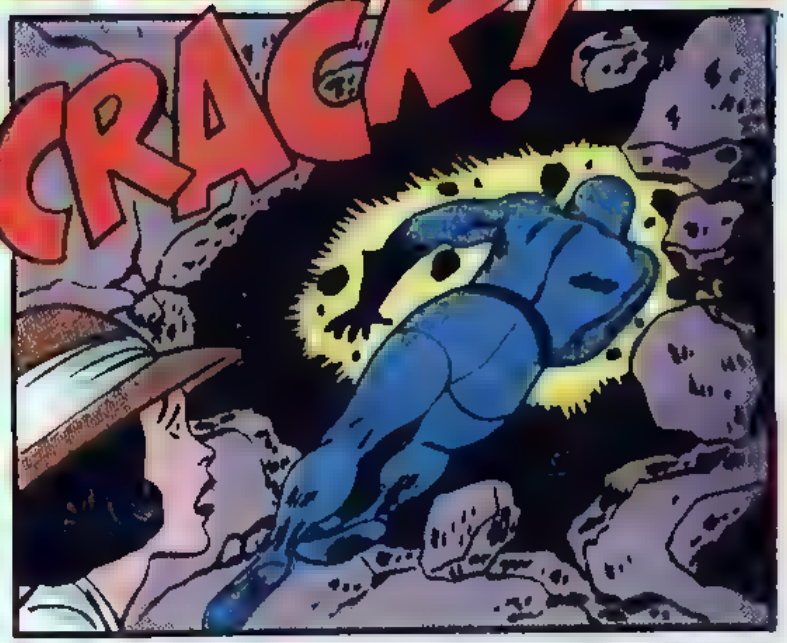
WHAT IS IT, DAN?

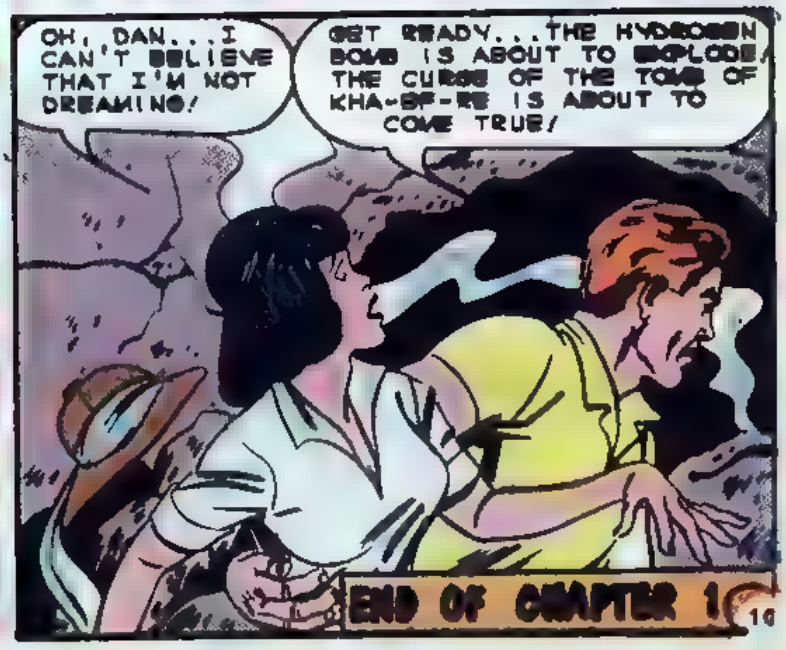
I KNOW NOW ABOUT THE WHITE-HOT LIGHT/ UP THERE...ABOVE US...A MODERN JET BOMBER IS CARRYING A HYDROGEN BOMB/ WE'VE GOT TO FIND SHELTER/


HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT, DAN?
DON'T ASK ME WHY OR HOW... BUT WHILE I'M HOLDING THIS BLUE BEETLE I CAN LOOK UPWARD THROUGH SOLID ROCK AND STONE AND SEE THAT PLANE/ AND I CAN SEE INSIDE THE PLANE...THE GREAT BOMB THEY ARE ABOUT TO DROP DIRECTLY ON US/

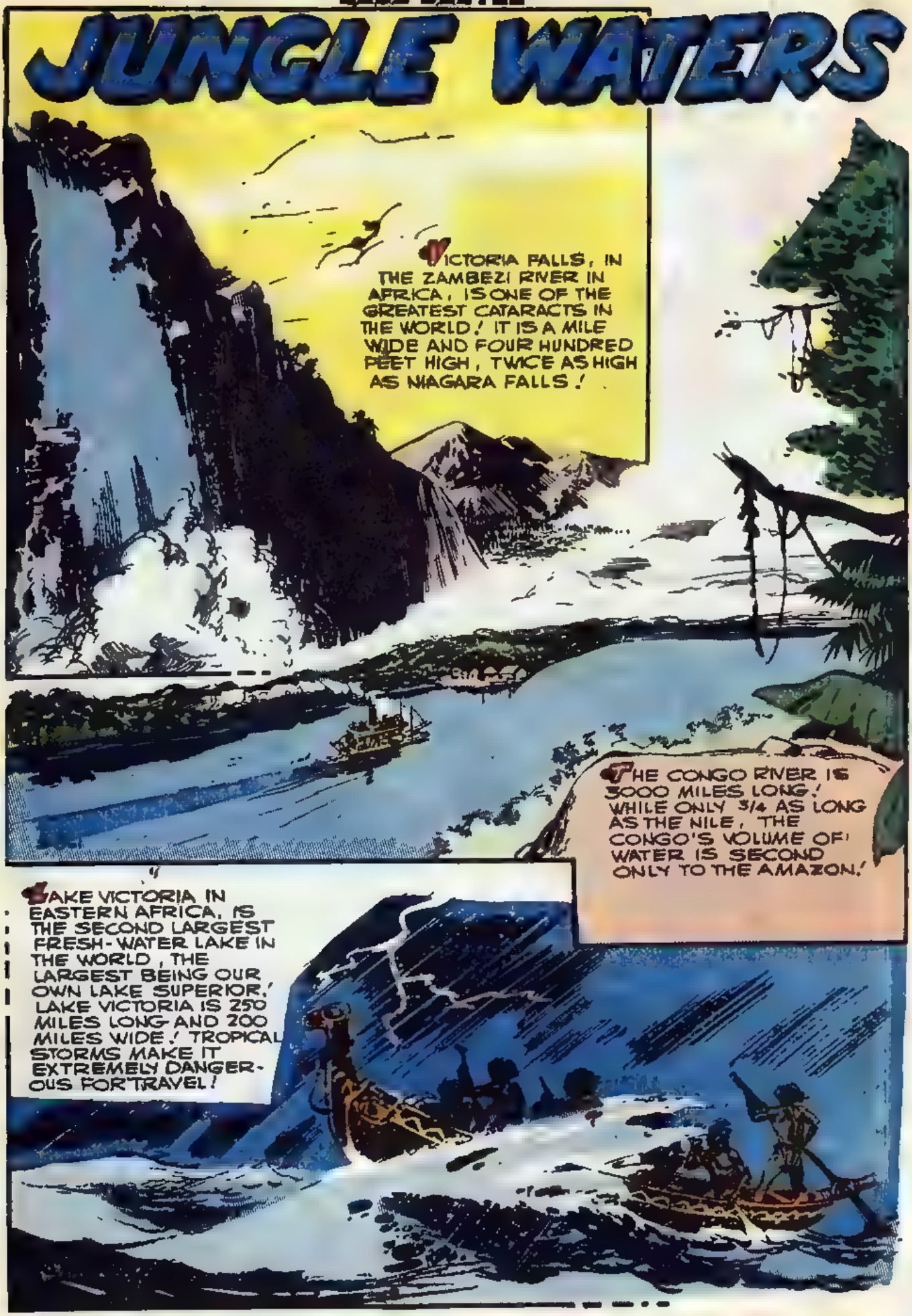
THEN WE'LL DIE, DAN/ A DIRECT HIT ABOVE US...
INSIDE THOSE GREAT DOORS IS A LEAD-LINED TOMB KHA-EF-RE HAD BUILT...WE'RE GOING IN THERE/


LURI STAGGERED BACK...FOR BEFORE HER EYES, DR. DAN GARRETT HAD CEASED TO EXIST... AND THE BLUE BEETLE WAS BORN/ A WORD FROM ANCIENT EGYPT SPRANG FROM HIS LIPS AND...
KAJ! DHA/


CRACK!

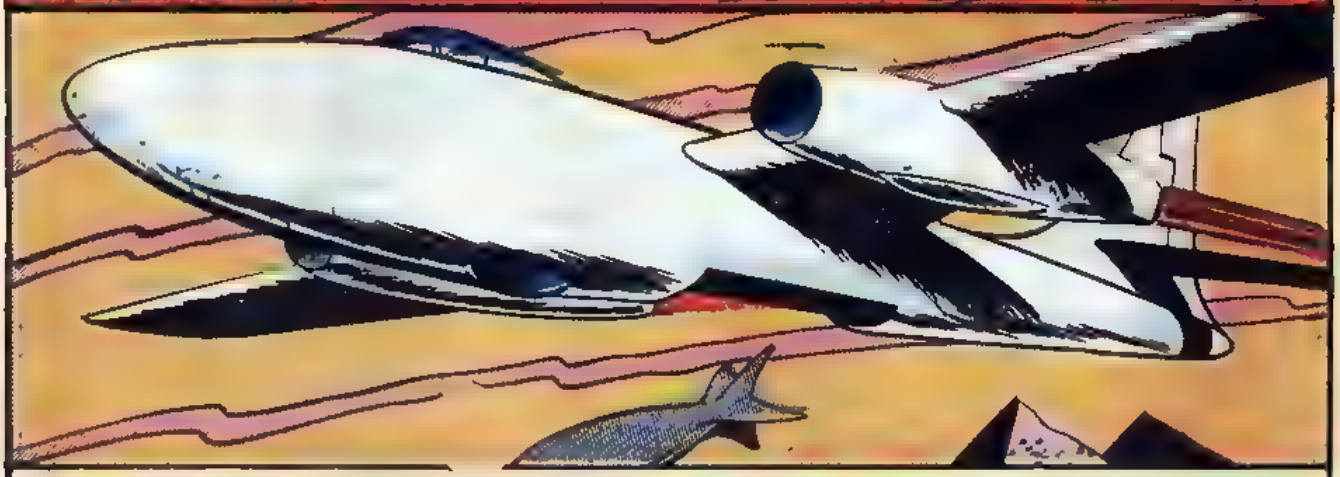

OH, DAN...I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT I'M NOT DREAMING/
GET READY...THE HYDROGEN BOMB IS ABOUT TO EXPLODE/ THE CURSE OF THE TOMB OF KHA-EF-RE IS ABOUT TO COME TRUE/
END OF CHAPTER 1

JUNGLE WATERS


VICTORIA FALLS, IN THE ZAMBEZI RIVER IN AFRICA, IS ONE OF THE GREATEST CATARACTS IN THE WORLD! IT IS A MILE WIDE AND FOUR HUNDRED FEET HIGH, TWICE AS HIGH AS NIAGARA FALLS!
THE CONGO RIVER IS 3000 MILES LONG! WHILE ONLY 3/4 AS LONG AS THE NILE, THE CONGO'S VOLUME OF WATER IS SECOND ONLY TO THE AMAZON!
LAKE VICTORIA IN EASTERN AFRICA, IS THE SECOND LARGEST FRESH-WATER LAKE IN THE WORLD, THE LARGEST BEING OUR OWN LAKE SUPERIOR! LAKE VICTORIA IS 250 MILES LONG AND 200 MILES WIDE! TROPICAL STORMS MAKE IT EXTREMELY DANGEROUS FOR TRAVEL!

CHAPTER 2

THE BIRTH OF EVIL



GENERAL AMENHOTEP'S SUPERSONIC BOMBER ARROWED ABOVE THE DESERT...BELOW IT THE GREAT BOMB FELL...TOWARD THE TOMB OF KHA-EF-RE!

THE BOMB EXPLODED WITH A FANTASTIC VIOLENCE...A SEARING LIGHT BURST ABOVE...AND BELOW THE SHIMMERING DESERT!

AND, BELOW, IN THE GREAT MASTABA OF THE EVIL PHARAOH, DIRECTLY BELOW THAT SEARING BLAST...AN ANCIENT HIEROGLYPHIC PROPHECY CAME TRUE! AS THE HEAT MELTED THE MUMMY CASE...AS THE ATOMIC LIGHT SEARED THE BASALT ALTAR ITSELF...THE MUMMY, 4000 YEARS OLD...WAS SUDDENLY A LIVING THING!

BEFORE THEIR EYES, THE GIANT MUMMY WHO WAS NOT DEAD WAS GROWING. .NOT NOTICING THEM, IT STIRRED AND THEY HEARD A SOUND FROM IT/ IT WAS TOWERING OVER THEM NOW
DAN, THAT SPECIAL POWER/ CAN YOU.
NO. .I'M TRYING... IT ISN'T WORKING NOW/
THE ANCIENT DOORS CUT INTO THICK WALLS OF STONE WEREN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR THE MUMMY OF KHA-EF-RE...BUT THIS EVIL MONSTER NEEDED NO DOORS FOR EXIT/ HE EMERGED FROM THE DESERT FLOOR...
BOOOM
CRUMP
GENERAL .AMENHOTEP, IF YOU WANT RECONNAISSANCE YOU COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF/ I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE/
ZOOOOOM
MEANWHILE...DR. DAN GARRETT AND PROF. LURI MOSHID TRIED TO PIECE TOGETHER WHAT HAD HAPPENED AND WAS HAPPENING OUTSIDE/
DAN, I'M SCARED TO DEATH/ THAT WASN'T A DREAM...IT REALLY HAPPENED/ THERE'S A GIANT UNDEAD MUMMY WANDERING AROUND UP THERE?
KHA-EF-RE PROPHESIED THAT THE WHITE-HOT LIGHT WOULD BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE/ IT IS MY GUESS THAT GENERAL AMENHOTEP KNEW THIS, AND HIS HYDROGEN BOMB WAS EXPLODED DELIBERATELY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS/ IF ONLY I COULD REMEMBER THE PHRASE I MUST USE TO I REMEMBER IT, LURI/
KAJ' DHA/

LUR! ..YOU'RE AN EXPERT ON SUCH THINGS/ WHERE DO YOU THINK THE EVIL PHARAOH WOULD GO NOW?
TO AMENHOTEP, THE MAN WHO GAVE HIM LIFE, WHO ELSE? AND THAT IS WHERE I AM GOING TOO/
HE HAD ALREADY DISCOVERED HIS ABILITY TO SEE THROUGH SOLID MATTER...AND AT INCREDIBLE DISTANCES/ NOW, HE INSTINCTIVELY KNEW HE POSSESSED EVEN GREATER POWERS/
ZZZOOOO
MMOOO
GENERAL AMENHOTEP -- UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT APPROACHING FORBIDDEN AREA!
IOOOOOMMM
...IT'S NOT AN ENEMY PLANE... IT'S A...IT'S A MAN, SORT OF/ AND MY BULLETS DON'T HURT HIM ANY/
BUDA BUDA
BUDA BUDA

LURI... YOU'RE AN EXPERT ON SUCH THINGS! WHERE DO YOU THINK THE EVIL PHARAOH WOULD GO NOW?
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ZZOOOM
MMOOO
GENERAL AMENHOTEP -- UNIDENTIFIED A-CRAFT APPROACHING FORB DOEN AREA!
IOOOOOMMMM
IT...IT'S NOT AN ENEMY PLANE... IT'S A...IT'S A MAN, SORT OF! AND MY BULLETS DON'T HURT HIM ANY!
BUDA BUDA
BUDA BUDA

THE PILOT SUDDENLY RECEIVED A TELEPATHIC MESSAGE, WORDS OF FIRE IN HIS BRAIN WHICH WERE "ABANDON YOUR AIRCRAFT, PUPPET OF EVIL OR ELSE!"
I SEE THEM FROM HERE! THE GIANT MUMMY WHO IS NOT DEAD WENT RIGHT TO AMENHOTEP...REPORTED TO HIM... BECAUSE AMENHOTEP IS EVIL AND A DESCENDANT OF THAT DYNASTY!
THE FANTASTIC VISION OF BLUE BEETLE PENETRATED WALLS AND VAULTED ACROSS SPACE...AND SHOWED HIM THE GIANT MUMMY OF KHA-EF-RE... FACING HIS MODERN MASTER, THE EVIL AMENHOTEP.
OUR AIMS ARE THE SAME, DEAD PHARAOH! YOU SOUGHT TO RULE THE WORLD 6,000 YEARS AGO - AND NOW, I SEEK THAT DREAM! TOGETHER WE WILL REIGN! WITH MODERN WEAPONS, WE WILL INSTITUTE A REIGN OF EVIL!
EVIL GIANT, REINCARNATION OF THE EVIL PHARAOH, KHA-EF-RE, I GREET YOU! TOGETHER YOU AND I WILL RULE THE WORLD!
I'D BETTER HAVE A TALK WITH AMENHOTEP RIGHT NOW!

IN A SPLIT SECOND...THE BLUE BEETLE FACED THE PAIR WHO WERE AVOWED ENEMIES OF ALL MEN!
I'M TAKING YOUR PLAYMATE BACK TO HIS TOMB, MENHOTEP! MY ASSISTANT IS DECIPHERING THE HIEROGLYPHICS WHICH WILL PUT HIM BACK IN THE TIME AND PLACE FROM WHICH HE CAME!

SUDDENLY...CAUGHT WITHOUT WARNING, THE BLUE BEETLE FELT A SUDDEN CHILL! AN EVIL COLDNESS FROM THE TOMB HELD HIM PARALYZED! HE COULD NOT LIFT HIS EYES NOR MOVE A FINGER TO FIGHT THE EVIL POWER OF KHA-EF-RE!
LOSING LOSING MY POWER

THEN, THE CRUMPLED FORM OF DAN GARRETT SLUMPED TO THE GROUND! TAKEN UNAWARE BY THE EVIL PHARAOH, BLUE BEETLE HAD SUCCUMBED!
THE FOOL...NOTHING CAN STAND IN OUR WAY, KHA-EF-RE! WE WILL TRIUMPH...WE WILL BRING DISASTER TO THE WORLD AND RULE IN CHAOS!

THIS JEWELED SCARAB...MAY BE THE SOURCE OF HIS GREAT POWERS! I MUST HAVE KHA-EF-RE DESTROY IT ALONG WITH HIM!
END OF CHAPTER 2

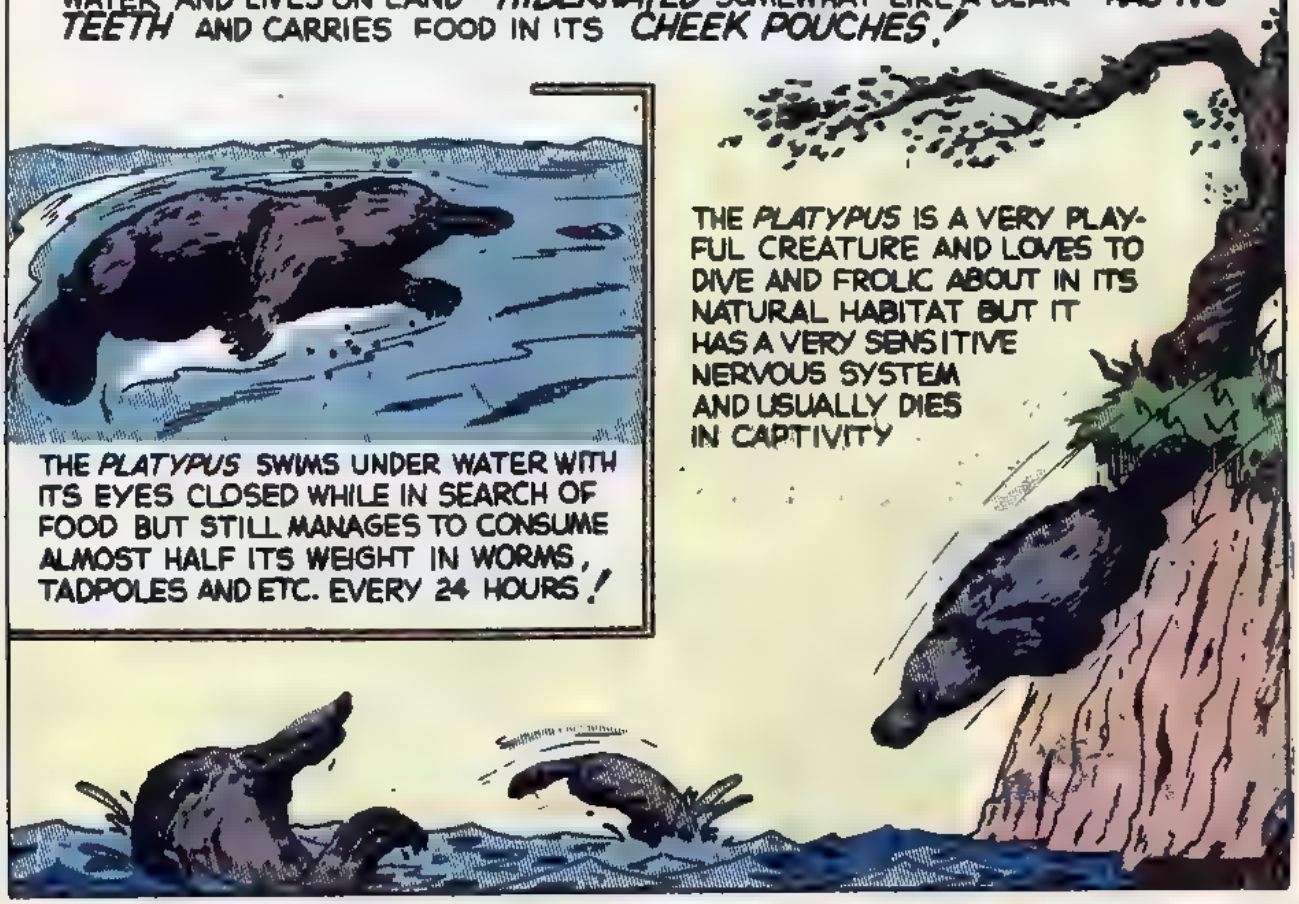
FREAKS OF NATURE!

THE *PLATYPUS*, FOUND IN THE AUSTRALIAN ALPS, IS TRULY THE MOST UNUSUAL LIVING PARADOX!

IT HAS A *BILL* LIKE A DUCK – *FUR* LIKE A SEAL – *WEBBED FEET* LIKE A GOOSE – *POISON SPURS* ON HIND FEET THAT ARE HOLLOW AND CAN EJECT POISON LIKE THE TOOTH OF A SNAKE – HAS A *TAIL* LIKE A BEAVER – *LAYS EGGS* LIKE A BIRD – *CLUCKS* LIKE A CHICKEN – *SUCKLES* ITS YOUNG – *DIGS HOLES* FOR ITS HOME IN RIVER BANKS LIKE A BEAVER – *SWIMS* UNDER WATER AND LIVES ON LAND – *HIBERNATES* SOMEWHAT LIKE A BEAR – HAS *NO TEETH* AND CARRIES FOOD IN ITS *CHEEK POUCHES*!

THE *PLATYPUS* SWIMS UNDER WATER WITH ITS EYES CLOSED WHILE IN SEARCH OF FOOD BUT STILL MANAGES TO CONSUME ALMOST HALF ITS WEIGHT IN WORMS, TADPOLES AND ETC. EVERY 24 HOURS!

THE *PLATYPUS* IS A VERY PLAYFUL CREATURE AND LOVES TO DIVE AND FROLIC ABOUT IN ITS NATURAL HABITAT BUT IT HAS A VERY SENSITIVE NERVOUS SYSTEM AND USUALLY DIES IN CAPTIVITY



GENERAL AMENHOTEP WAS ABOUT TO DESTROY THE SACRED BLUE SCARAB AND DR. GARRETT/ HE WAS UNOPPOSED NOW...HE COULD DREAM MIGHTY DREAMS OF CONQUEST/ IN HIS MIND'S EYE, THE CRUEL GENERAL ENVISIONED THE GIANT MUMMY'S ROLE IN THE CONQUEST OF ALL MANKIND/ THE REINCARNATION OF THE EVIL PHARAOH COULD SMASH GREAT CITIES...

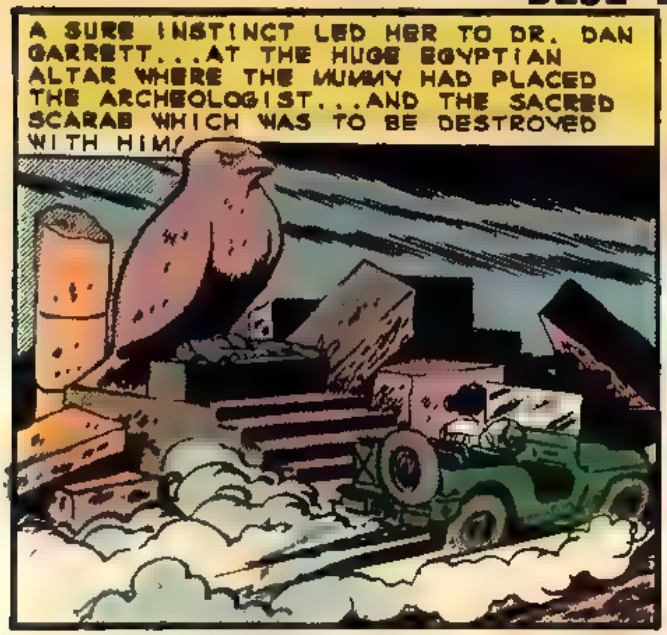
CHAPTER 3

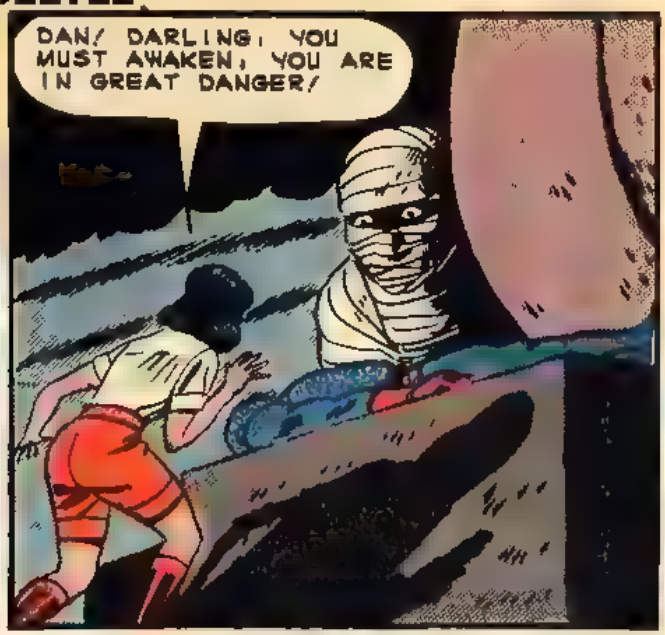
THE MUMMY'S RETURN

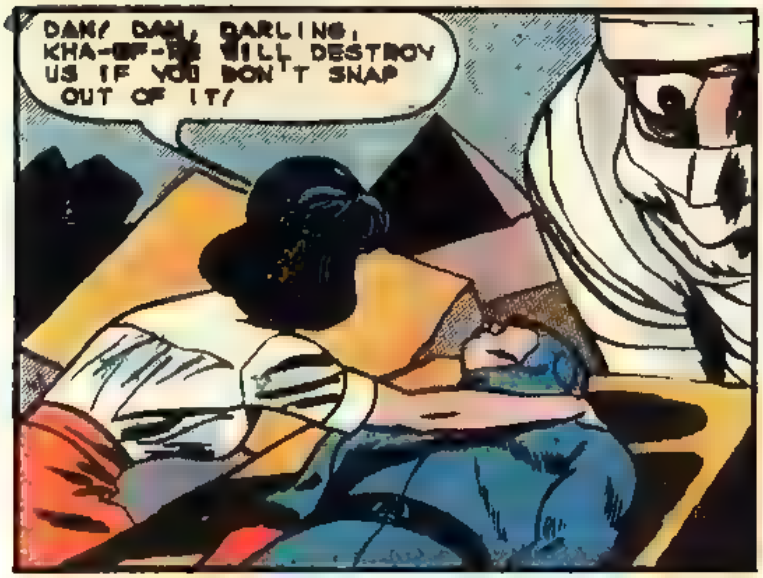
AT EL ALIL, WHERE DR. GARRETT AND PROFESSOR LURI HOSHID HAD DISCOVERED THE MUMMY OF THE EVIL PHARAOH, THE GIRL WAS NEARLY FRANTIC WITH WORRY...

DAN TOLD ME TO STAY AWAY FROM AMENHOTEP'S CAMP BUT I KNOW HE'S IN TROUBLE, I MUST GO TO HIM/

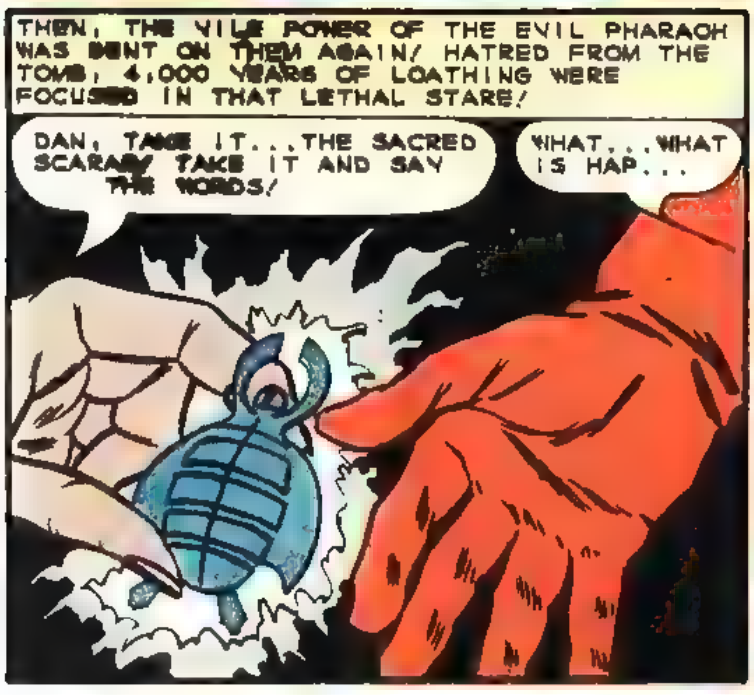
I'M AS COLD AS THE GRAVE...I'M SO AFRAID FOR DAN/


A SURE INSTINCT LED HER TO DR. DAN GARRETT...AT THE HUGE EGYPTIAN ALTAR WHERE THE MUMMY HAD PLACED THE ARCHEOLOGIST...AND THE SACRED SCARAB WHICH WAS TO BE DESTROYED WITH HIM!


DAN! DARLING! YOU MUST AWAKEN, YOU ARE IN GREAT DANGER!


DAN! DAN, DARLING, KHA-EF-RE WILL DESTROY US IF YOU DON'T SNAP OUT OF IT!

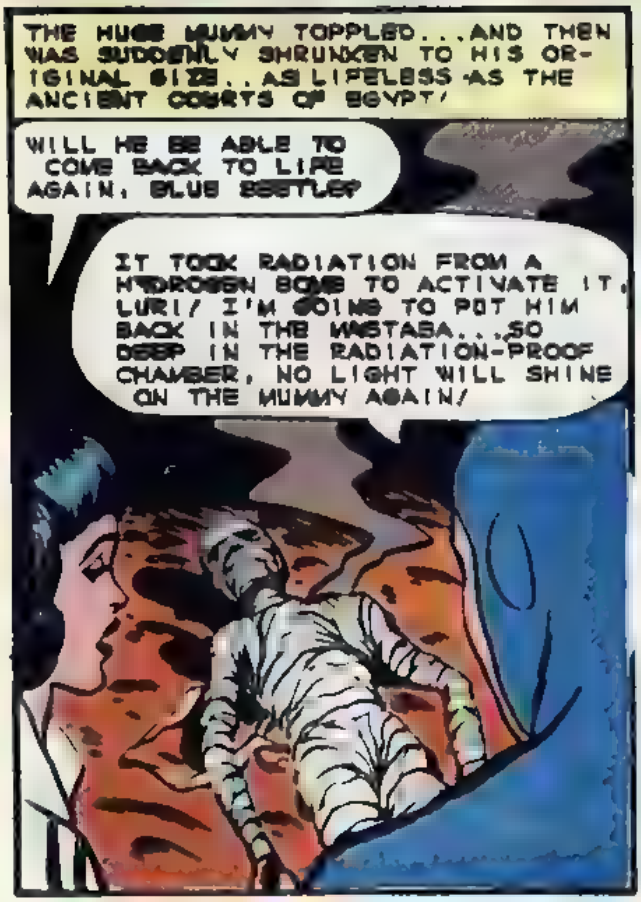
FROM AN INNER WELLSPRING OF STRENGTH, DAN GARRETT FOUND THE COURAGE TO DEFY KHA-EF-RE! HIS HAND CLUTCHED THE BLUE BEETLE...HE SAID THE ANCIENT WORDS!
KAJI DHA!

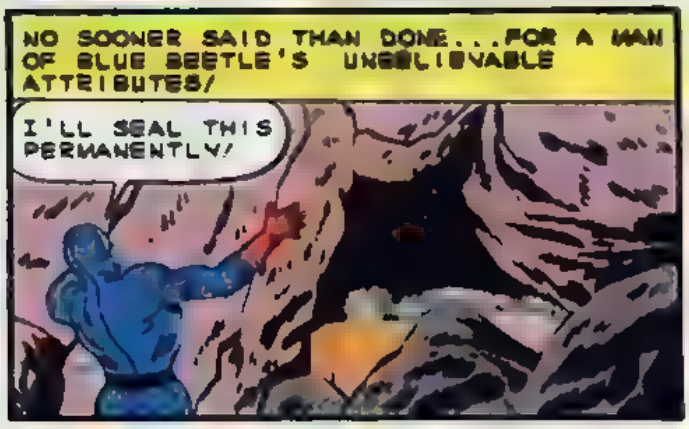

THEN, THE VILE POWER OF THE EVIL PHARAOH WAS SENT ON THEM AGAIN! HATRED FROM THE TOMB, 4,000 YEARS OF LOATHING WERE FOCUSED IN THAT LETHAL STARE!
DAN, TAKE IT...THE SACRED SCARAB! TAKE IT AND SAY THE WORDS!
WHAT...WHAT IS HAP...

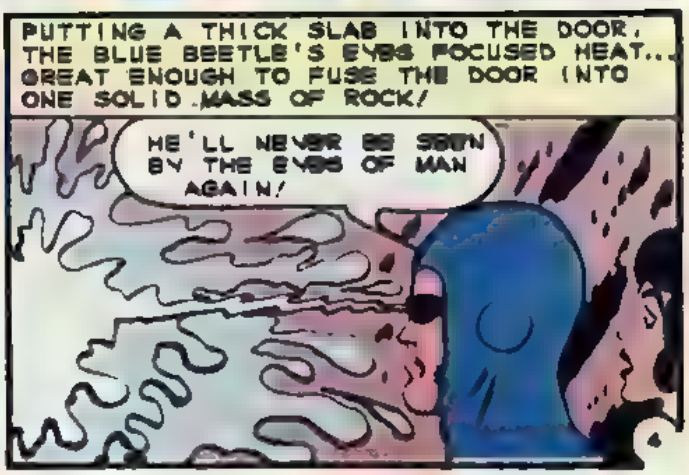
THEN...BLUE BEETLE FACED THE AWFUL POWER OF THE EVIL PHARAOH/ THE EYES WITH THE BEAMS OF HATE...THE BLUE BEETLE'S MIND REELED BEFORE THE POWER OF THE GRAVE...
GET CLEAR, LURI/ HE'S GOING TO TRY TO DESTROY ME/
SWOK
SMASH
SWOOSH
GOT TO GET UP SPEED... HIT HIM HARDER/ HIS POWERS ARE ALMOST THE EQUAL OF MINE/
WHEW/ IF HE GETS ME WITH ONE OF THOSE...
WOOOSH

ZZOOOMMM
WHAP!

OH, BLUE BEETLE...YOU'VE DONE IT!


THE HUGE MUMMY TOPPLED...AND THEN WAS SUDDENLY SHRUNKEN TO HIS ORIGINAL SIZE..AS LIFELESS AS THE ANCIENT COURTS OF EGYPT!
WILL HE BE ABLE TO COME BACK TO LIFE AGAIN, BLUE BEETLE?
IT TOOK RADIATION FROM A HYDROGEN BOMB TO ACTIVATE IT, LURI! I'M GOING TO PUT HIM BACK IN THE MASTABA...SO DEEP IN THE RADIATION-PROOF CHAMBER, NO LIGHT WILL SHINE ON THE MUMMY AGAIN!

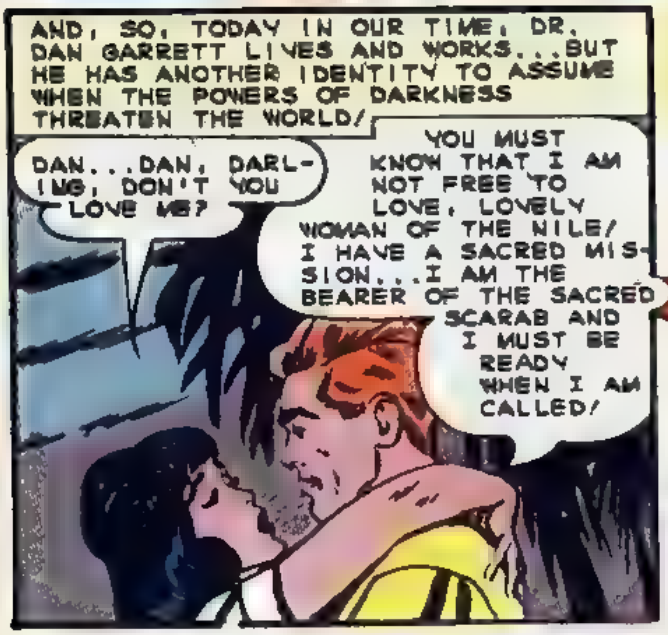

NO SOONER SAID THAN DONE...FOR A MAN OF BLUE BEETLE'S UNBELIEVABLE ATTRIBUTES!
I'LL SEAL THIS PERMANENTLY!

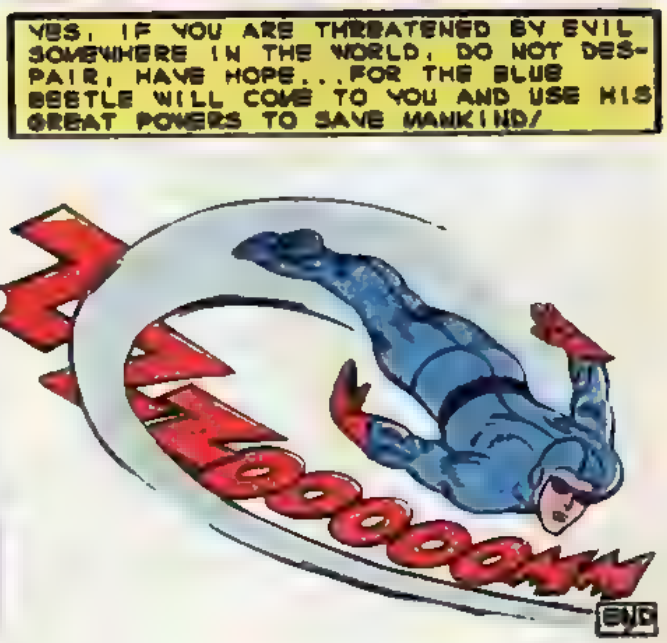

PUTTING A THICK SLAB INTO THE DOOR, THE BLUE BEETLE'S EYES FOCUSED HEAT...GREAT ENOUGH TO FUSE THE DOOR INTO ONE SOLID MASS OF ROCK!
HE'LL NEVER BE SEEN BY THE EYES OF MAN AGAIN!

WAIT HERE, LURI...I'VE GOT TO DESTROY GENERAL AMENHOTEP'S MISSILES AND WEAPONS/ I'LL BE BACK IN A FEW MOMENTS/

AMENHOTEP'S ARSENAL OF POWER WAS DESTROYED QUICKLY/
BANG
BAM
Zoooooom

THEN, ONE MORE CHORE...BACK TO THE COURT OF THE GREAT PHARAOH WHERE HE HAD BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH A MISSION/
I VANQUISHED THE EVIL PHARAOH, EXCELLENCY/ NOW, WILL YOU TAKE BACK THE GREAT POWERS OR...?
GO FROM THIS PLACE AND DO, GOOD, DR. GARRETT/ YOU HAVE PROVED WORTHY OF OUR FAITH/


AND, SO, TODAY IN OUR TIME, DR. DAN GARRETT LIVES AND WORKS...BUT HE HAS ANOTHER IDENTITY TO ASSUME WHEN THE POWERS OF DARKNESS THREATEN THE WORLD/
DAN...DAN, DARLING, DON'T YOU LOVE ME?
YOU MUST KNOW THAT I AM NOT FREE TO LOVE, LOVELY WOMAN OF THE NILE/ I HAVE A SACRED MISSION...I AM THE BEARER OF THE SACRED SCARAB AND I MUST BE READY WHEN I AM CALLED/


YES, IF YOU ARE THREATENED BY EVIL SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD, DO NOT DESPAIR, HAVE HOPE...FOR THE BLUE BEETLE WILL COME TO YOU AND USE HIS GREAT POWERS TO SAVE MANKIND/
Zoooooom
END

HAVE A HEART

"I am very sorry," sighed Dr. Hugo Schindler. "We have done everything in the world for that young officer. Dr. Wasson flew in by jet from Boston. We had a state police escort to get Dr. Moriarty here on time. But when a man has taken eleven bullets into his system it is almost a miracle that any life should be left in him."

"I should never have given my consent," replied Police Commissioner Abbott. "Officer John Golding was so young, capable, and willing. He said he had an idea of how the Gavensky Gang might be operating. Just a wild idea that was all. Could he work on it during his spare time? I figured we had nothing to lose so I gave my consent. Yet he must have stumbled somehow on the set-up. If you could keep him alive for an hour then we could get the details and smash that gang once and for all."

"If we could keep him alive for an hour or more than there would be a good chance he could live. Two bullets are near his heart and we can't operate," replied the head surgeon of Mercy Hospital. "Nothing can be done."

"Are you certain there is nothing you can do?" challenged a soft voice.

Both the Police Commissioner and Dr. Schindler spun around. Neither had heard nor seen the other man enter the small conference room on the seventh floor.

"What are you doing here?" demanded Dr. Schindler. "You should be on your way to Paris."

"The radio and TV broadcasters have been telling the public about that brave officer. I am here again to ask you to reconsider and let me use my invention. My artificial heart will save him," replied the man.

"Forgive my lack of courtesy," apologized Dr. Schindler as he turned toward the Police Commissioner. "Let me present Dr. Granoff. He has been working on an artificial heart. However he will not reveal the details so we can not permit him to use it. That is a standing rule we have."

"But you have nothing to lose," insisted Dr. Granoff. "Your officer will soon be dead. Suppose my invention failed-then what? Think about it and as you do just keep in mind that the seconds of life left for that young officer are ticking away forever. You have the right to permit me to use my artificial heart."

"Shy not?" interrupted the Police Commissioner. "Mrs. Golding is here. She has the right to give her consent in such a matter. Even if it is a million to one shot. Suppose we put it up to her?"

Three minutes later, young Ethel Golding, whose eyes were red from constant crying listened to the proposal.

"All I know is that I want my husband alive," she sobbed. "I don't know anything about an artificial heart. Give me my husband."

"That settles it," announced the head surgeon. "Into the operating room we go."

For the next three hours, Ethel Golding stayed put in a chair next to the Police Commissioner. He insisted that she eat something which she did though the food seemed tasteless to her. Then a nurse came out with the news.

"Your husband is alive and will live, Mrs. Golding. We are taking him to room 235. Will you and the Police Commissioner come with us."

It was a short walk to the special room. Officer Golding was in the bed with his head popped up against a pillow. On one side of the bed was Dr. Schindler. A small tape recorder was set up on the table. Ethel kissed her husband on the cheek and

he took her hand. His voice was weak as as he spoke.

"The auto painting shop on Center Avenue and Pine Street is part of the set-up," began the officer. "They are the most expensive place in the city and do not get much business. Yet I saw fourteen cars go in there one evening. They haven't room for that many cars. What happened to them bothered me. On the other side of Center Avenue you have a small apartment house, which is built on a hill. Actually the basement of that apartment house is on a level with the garage on the other side.

You can go down three stories under that basement. That is where they have their workshop. They bring the stolen cars there and rebuild them. They know every trick of the trade. Then those cars are exported to South America. They even own a tramp steamer. I got caught and put up a fight. I think I killed two men. Where did you find me?"

"In a ditch on highway 23a," replied the Police Commissioner. "A man was walking along the highway. He had run out of gas and was going to get some in a can. He saw your body there and then stopped a passing car. They took you to the nearest surgeon and we had a special ambulance bring you here."

"I saw Gavinsky himself," continued the young man. "I guess I am tired. I want to close my eyes and sleep for awhile."

The Police Commissioner immediately went into action. He sent for his Deputy Commissioner and they planned a quick raid on the set-up. So far no news release was made about the fact that Officer Golding was alive. And by midnight the raid had been completed. Also a tramp steamer had been stopped by the Coast Guards before leaving port with a consignment of seventy four rebuilt stolen cars.

At the end of the week, Officer Golding was up and out of bed. He insisted on seeing Dr. Granoff and thanking him.

"We are all trying to find Dr. Granoff." explained Dr. Schindler. "You are alive. Within you a real heart is beating as far as we can determine. Your heart was taken out. Now we don't know exactly what it was that Dr. Granoff did. Was it another real heart which he had preserved and by some new technique transplanted it and make the transplant stick? Or in it some kind of a material like human tissue that he created and made a substitute heart out of it? We don't know the answers. All we know is that you have the heart he invent ed. And just now as far as scientists are concerned you are about the most precious person in this world

"Dr. Granoff did not take the plane to Paris. At present he is missing. We have an alarm out for him. There are a l * of questions we want to ask and get the answers to them."

By the end of the week, Dr Granoff became the number one wanted man in the United States. Every attempt was made to trace his steps when he left the hospital. But nobody had seen him go. His license number on a 1959 blue sedan were known and that was broadcasted. He had a small apartment in the Bellmore Section of the city. But his landlady said she had not seen him since he told her he was going to Paris.

"We have to find him," insisted Dr. Moriarty. "At present he is the most famous physician in this country and even abroad. All kinds of honors are his if he will explain his heart technique."

It was the day that Police Commissioner received a phone call from State Superintendent Engesser, head of the State Police. He immediately left in his car and went up to the Kingston area. He was taken to a small cabin.

"Your Dr. Granoff owned this cabin," explained the State Police head. "He would come up here by himself and fish, read books and do some writing. His car was parked near the woodshed. One of my troopers noticed it and spotted the license number. We went inside. He must have been dead for some time."

"For how long?" asked the Police Commissioner. "Now that's the strange thing," explained Engesser. "I had the county coroner check him and try to give us an estimate of the time element. It must have been a quick heart attack. Like one-two-three-and it's over. Dr. Highman figured out it took place just the day before he showed up at the hospital. But that would be impossible. A dead man can't do an operation. So I figure that Dr. Highman must be wrong. It would have to be an error of two days, figuring the day he was at the hospital and figuring the day he was at the hospital and figuring the next day he arrived here."

Later a further check was made upon the body and all the evidence tended to show the "impossible." Namely, that Dr. Granoff had been dead a day before he showed up at the hospital.

"Whatever it was," said Officer Golding, "I shall be grateful that man for the rest of my life. Maybe it was a real miracle. Then coming to think about it, either way it was a miracle. For I am alive with a new heart."

****

RECORD OF THE ROCKS

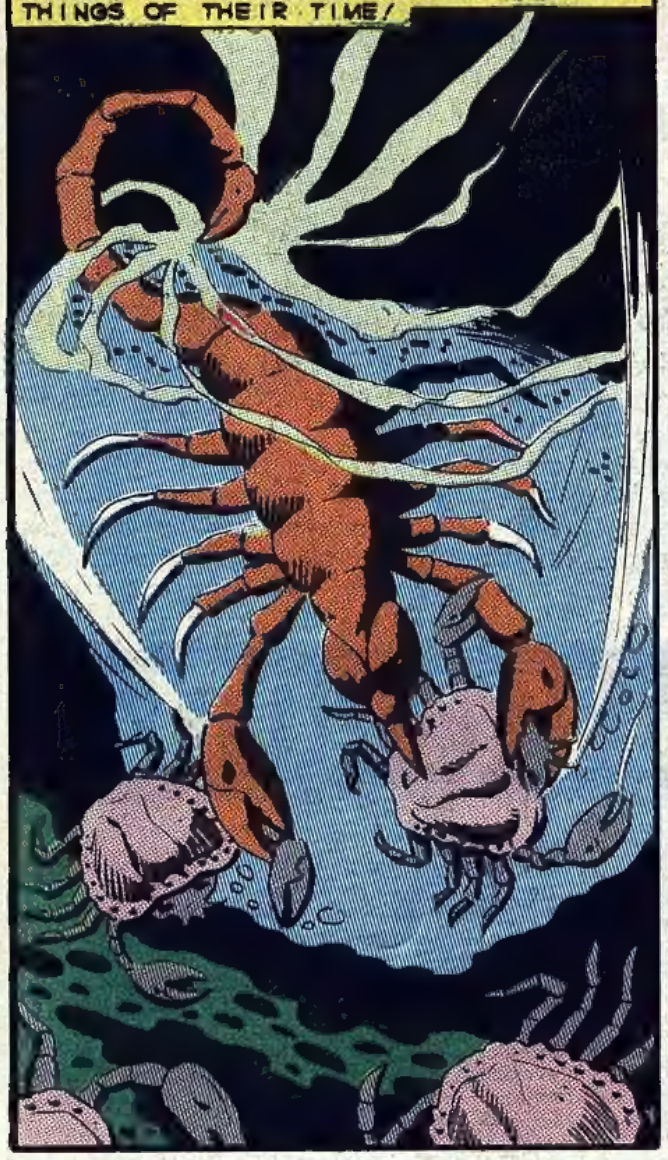
MAN DOES NOT SURELY KNOW HOW LIFE BEGAN ON EARTH/ STUDENTS OF LIFE HAVE MADE GUESSES/ OTHER SCIENTISTS ALL AGREE THAT LIFE FIRST BEGAN WHERE THE TIDES OF THOSE DAYS MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO, SPREAD AND RECEDED OVER STEAMING BEACHES OF MUD AND SAND/ WHEN CREATURES FORMED SKELETONS AND THE LAYERS OF EARTH FORMED UPON THEM THROUGH THE AGES, THE RECORD OF THE ROCKS BEGAN, READ TO US BY THE SCIENCE OF GEOLOGY/

1588

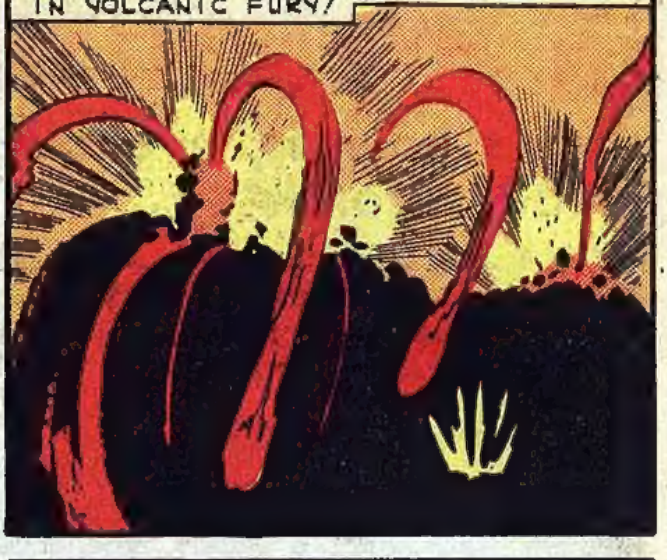
THE FIRST SERIES OF ROCKS IS CALLED THE AZOIC ROCKS/ THE SECOND SERIES, OVERLAPPING IT, IS CALLED THE PROTEROZOIC BEGINNING OF LIFE SERIES, FOR IN IT HAS BEEN FOUND THE SKELETONS OF MICROSCOPIC CREATURES CALLED RADIOLARIA...THE FIRST LIFE FORMS ON EARTH/

THE THIRD LAYER SHOWS AN ABUNDANCE OF SHELLFISH, CRABS, WORMS AND SEAWEEDS/

THROUGH LONG AGES LIFE INCREASED AND SPREAD IN THE SEAS/ SEA SCORPIONS NINE FEET LONG CAME INTO BEING, THE KINGS OF ALL LIVING THINGS OF THEIR TIME/

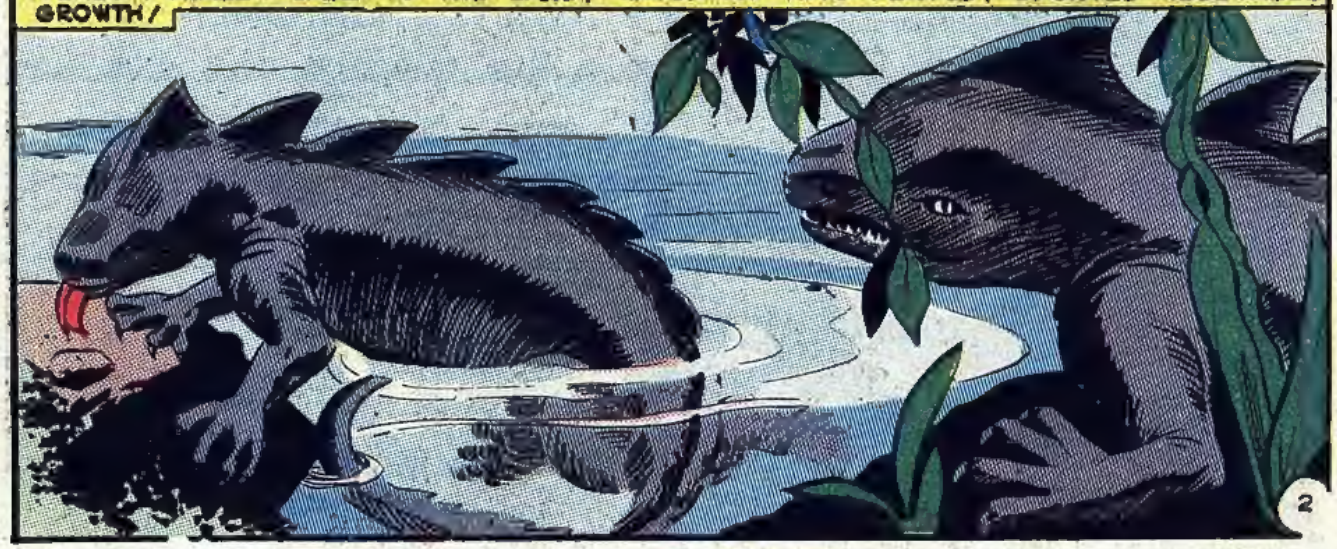


THE EARTH AT THAT TIME WAS BARREN OF LIFE, A STEAMING DESERT, BUBBLING AND BREAKING ITS CRUST IN VOLCANIC FURY/



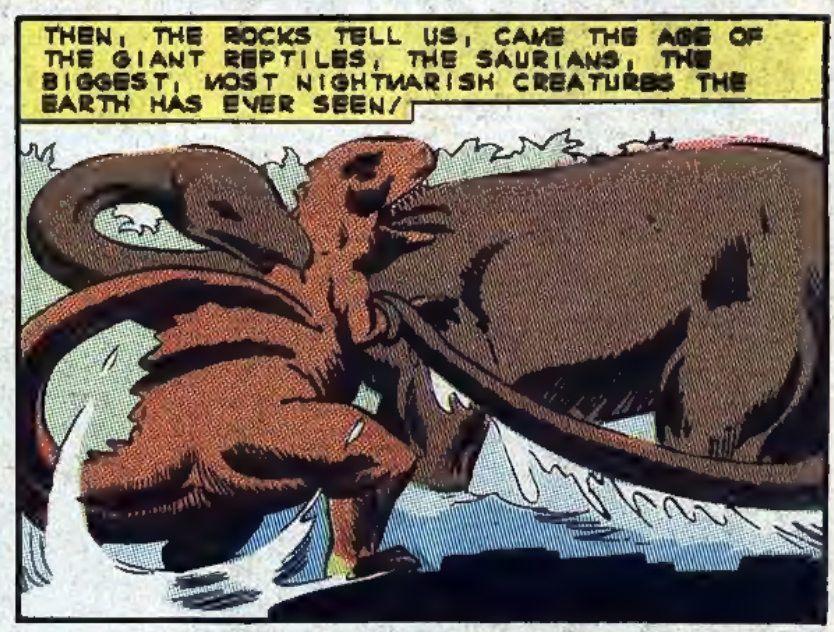
MENAWHILE, AS MILLIONS OF YEARS PASSED, THE CREATURES OF THE SEA BECAME MORE DIVERSE IN FORM, BIGGER, SWIFTER...

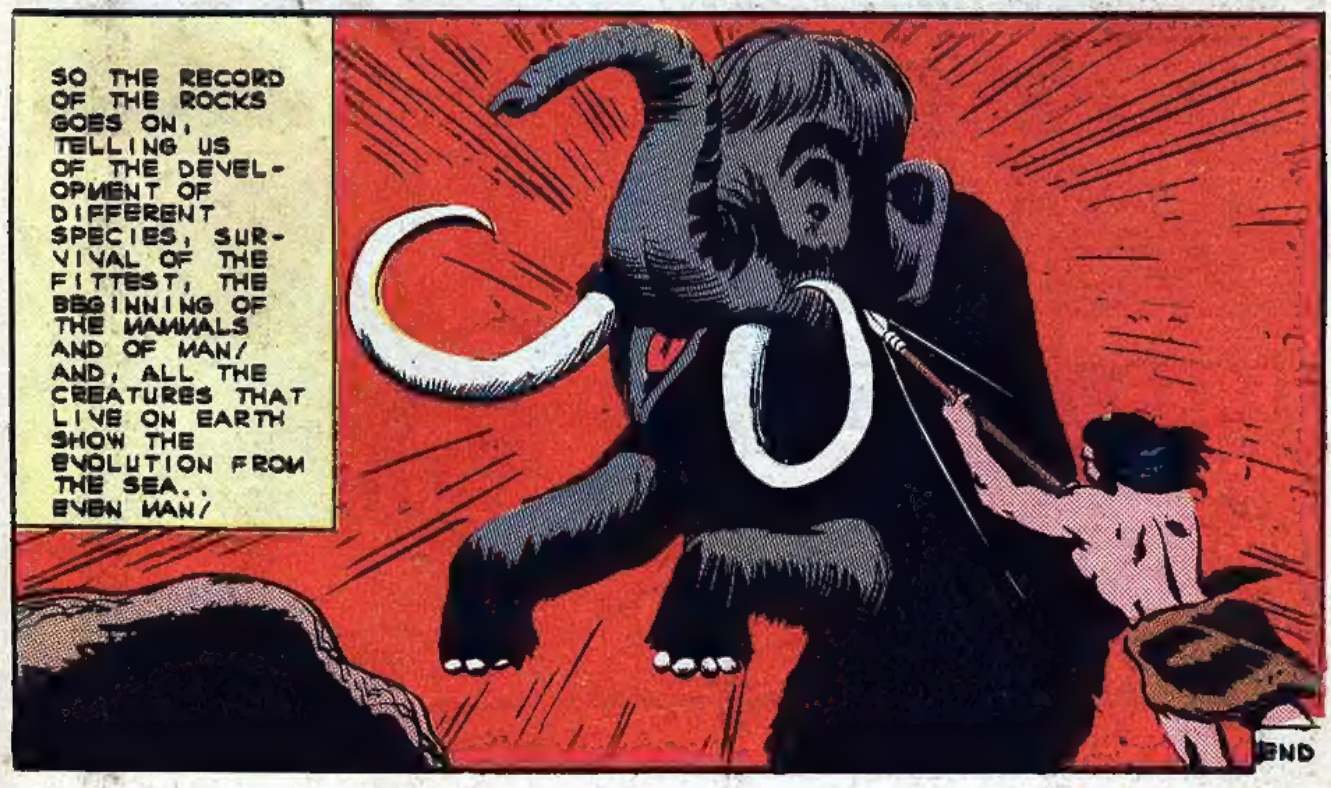
IN THE STORY OF THE ROCKS GEOLOGISTS FIND A NEW PERIOD, THE MESOZOIC/ THIS WAS THE AGE OF REPTILES/ SPAWN OF THE SEA MONSTERS, THESE CREATURES FINALLY CAME TO THE LAND, WHICH AT THIS PERIOD, SPORTED VEGETABLE GROWTH/



PLANTS FIRST BEGAN IN THE WATER TOO/ THEY THEN CAME TO LAND AND LEARNED TO LIVE AWAY FROM THE WATER AS LONG AS THERE WAS WATER IN THE SOIL/

ANIMAL LIFE FOLLOWED THE PLANTS TO THE LAND, FOR THE LIZARD-LIKE CREATURES THAT FIRST CRAWLED FROM THE WATER TO LAND, HAD TO FIND PLANTLIFE ON THE LAND ON WHICH TO FEED/


THEN, THE ROCKS TELL US, CAME THE AGE OF THE GIANT REPTILES, THE SAURIANS, THE BIGGEST, MOST NIGHTMARISH CREATURES THE EARTH HAS EVER SEEN/


SO THE RECORD OF THE ROCKS GOES ON, TELLING US OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIFFERENT SPECIES, SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST, THE BEGINNING OF THE MAMMALS AND OF MAN/ AND, ALL THE CREATURES THAT LIVE ON EARTH SHOW THE EVOLUTION FROM THE SEA.. EVEN MAN/
END